

**From:** Rosanna Ellul <[I/S] @inquest.org.uk>  
**Sent:** Tue, 28 Mar 2023 16:48:17 +0100  
**To:** "Davies, Catherine" <[I/S] @dhsc.gov.uk>; "Deborah Coles" <[I/S] @inquest.org.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: deaths data - your views

Dear Catherine,

Thanks for getting in touch and please see our response to your questions below.

Also, Deb and I are available to meet with your team to talk about the review and our evidence in more detail. We were contacted about attending a stakeholder group a few weeks ago but were not able to attend. We're still keen to learn more about the review and participate if possible so please do let us know if you can meet on alternative dates.

Thanks,  
Rosanna

What data do you need on deaths?

For INQUEST's work supporting bereaved families following a state-related death in mental health settings or involving mental health services, we need the following data:

- **Data on the deaths of all people in mental health units, including informal/voluntary patients.** CQC publishes data on deaths of people detained under the mental health act or under Community Treatment Orders. Importantly, CQC data does not include deaths of non-detained patients in a mental health setting (i.e. an informal/voluntary patient). CQC also does not publish data on the deaths of informal/voluntary children held in mental health settings. Because CQC are only notified of detained patients, it is hard to get an accurate picture of all patients who have died in mental health settings. Fleur Anderson tabled a PQ last year (see [here](#)) to ask how many children have died while (a) detained under the Mental Health Act and (b) in the care of a mental health setting as a voluntary patient in each year from 2016 to 2022. The answer revealed that there were 21 deaths of children and young people in NHS organisations and seven in independent healthcare organisations. INQUEST have queried this answer several times because the question tabled asked for the numbers of children who have died from 2016 to 2022, whereas the answer provided gives information on both children and young people. Also, the data is not disaggregated to show patients who were formally detained under the MHA and those who are in the care of a mental health setting as a voluntary patient. The government also didn't breakdown the deaths year by year, as they have previously done (see [here](#)), which we queried.
- **Race and ethnicity.** A full, detailed breakdown of the race and ethnicity of the individual who died in a mental health settings or under the care of mental health services is extremely important.

- **Use of force.** This data needs to be published routinely and also needs to be broken down by ethnicity, which current CQC data does not do. It is also concerning that key sections of the Mental Health (Use of Force) Act, or Seni's Law (sections 6, 7 and 8) on the requirements to record and report to Parliament on use of force statistics are yet to be commenced.
- **Location.** It is important that the location of someone's death is recorded. For example, it is useful to know whether the individual died while in seclusion or on an acute ward.

What do you need the data for?

- INQUEST uses the currently available data on deaths in mental health settings or involving mental health services as part of our monitoring work, as well as for our campaigning and policy work.

In what timescale do you need the data for it to be useful?

- N/A

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**From:** Davies, Catherine  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 28, 2023 2:06 PM  
**To:** Deborah Coles ; Rosanna Ellul  
**Subject:** deaths data - your views

Dear Deborah and Rosanna

I am contacting you as part of some pre-work for a consensus workshop on deaths data, for the rapid review into inpatient mental health settings, chaired by Dr Geraldine Strathdee.

I would be very grateful if you could let me know:

- What data do you need on deaths?
- What do you need the data for?
- In what timescale do you need the data for it to be useful?

A response by the end of tomorrow would be very much appreciated.

Kind regards,

Catherine



**Catherine Davies**

Head of Mental Health Policy – Delivery

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